



## **Important Update: *Implementing the Federal Health Privacy Rule in California***

New supplements to the popular series of industry guides for implementing the Federal Health Privacy Rule in California have been posted on the California HealthCare Foundation Web site ([www.chcf.org](http://www.chcf.org)). These supplements update the original guides to conform to the recent modifications of the final Federal Health Privacy Rule by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The three supplements, prepared by the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University, detail changes and additions to federal and state privacy laws from the original guides published in February 2002. Supplements include:

- *Update and Supplement to the Guide for Health Care Providers*
- *Update and Supplement to the Guide for Health Insurers and Health Care Service Plans*
- *Update and Supplement to the Guide for Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, and Others*

The guides are intended to assist the health care industry in California to implement the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). In August 2002, HHS issued significant modifications to the Federal Privacy Rule. These supplements address those modifications, and are an *update* to the original guide, *not a substitute*.

The new supplements are *only* available online at [www.chcf.org](http://www.chcf.org). There, you can also download the original guides. There is no charge for the supplements or the original guides.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Enhancing California Health Care Through Technology Conference**

Attend the 2003 CHCF/University of California Health Care Information Technology Conference being held in Los Angeles on January 14-15. The conference features speakers and workshops on the enabling role IT can play in improving the quality of care. A limited number of spaces and scholarships are still available. To learn more about the conference or to register online, please visit: [www.cahealthit.com](http://www.cahealthit.com).

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